

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

ADDENDUM TO YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAWS

PARENT'S GUIDE

Welcome to Tiny Kicks 4 v 4

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

A fantastic Introduction to the world's greatest game

TINY KICKS 4 V 4 - RULES OF THE GAME

Roster Size:	12 players maximum on team roster
Number of Players:	2 teams of 4 field players (no goalkeepers)
Playing Field:	35 yards x 25 yards; Corner Flags for Goals are used at each end of the 35 yard playing area.
Duration of Game:	Four 8-minute quarters (2 minutes rest between quarters, 5 minutes at the half).
Objective of the Game:	To learn basic skills with emphasis on having fun and being spontaneous.
Game description:	Game begins with the ball being played from the centerline of team winning the coin toss (No off-side in Tiny Kicks 4 v 4 soccer).
Scoring:	Goals can only be scored from attacking half of the field and must pass below the line into the goal. (No scores will be kept).
Re-starts:	Opponents must be 3 yards away for all re-starts. Following a goal the ball is played “in” from the centerline with an indirect kick. Ball going out of play, whether over the end or sideline, is played “in” by opposing team with an indirect kick (no throw-ins or goal kicks). Corner kicks are taken by the attacking team when the ball has been touched by and goes over the defending team’s end line. (Leader: Be flexible with the rules; use kick-offs at mid-field or have the opponents go to their defending half if a team struggles to get the ball out of the back area.)
Substitutions:	Do so quickly when a ball goes out of bounds. Action can continue - “Leader” permission unnecessary.
Infringements:	Tripping, handling, etc, can be dealt with by awarding an indirect free kick (i.e.; ball must be passed before a shot can be taken) with opposing team 3 yards away from the ball.
Variations:	Penalty kicks (only when infringement continues after repeated warnings) from mid-field; shots from attacking half only; shot can only be taken when all players are in the attacking half.

NO LEAGUE STANDINGS ARE KEPT.

TINY KICKS 4 V 4 - THE ADVANTAGES

- Increases number of ball contacts - more touches means more skill and fun;
- Increases player concentration - the ball is close at all times;
- Improves fitness - lively and dynamic tempo;
- Creates better awareness and greater player flexibility - all children play offense and defense;
- More goals are scored. Without a goalkeeper, every player takes shots with great frequency- fun for the children;
- Rules are simplified so there is less structure which encourages and emphasizes imaginative play; and
- Gives children an enjoyable introduction to the world's greatest game.

WHAT ADULTS CAN EXPECT FROM CHILDREN

Adults will not be able to expect much unless they reduce the importance of the outcome of the game. Children will not respond well to highly critical adults; their anxiety levels increase and their decision-making becomes less effective, so **it is important that adults do not become another problem to be overcome while the child is playing.**

General Principles

- Children, at all ages, should be able to show respect and good manners to all involved (players, game leader, spectators and coaches).
- Children should be able to recognize the equipment used and the importance of care for all equipment, including their own.

What can be expected of 6 Year-olds

Attitudes

Children will be largely self-centered and cooperation is very difficult.

They do not compete but merely imitate competition.

They will not remember the result, they will not understand the concept of winning and will therefore believe everyone can win.

Looking/Watching/Scanning

Children will only watch the ball. They cannot and will not look for space to run into.

They will not understand the concept of space. Therefore encouragement to “spread out” is not necessary.

They will react too quickly to the flight of the ball.

Understanding

At this age, they will “play at” soccer by imitating rather than play soccer. **It will not be helpful to place the children at this age into playing positions.**

Are attackers generally trying to score? Are defenders generally attempting to prevent the opposition from scoring? Is there a realization that the situation has changed when possession moves from one team to another? If this is so, then adults should merely reinforce what is occurring in front of them.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Game Leader:	<p>#1 Priority: THE FUN OF THE CHILDREN.</p> <p>Be enthusiastic! Leaders are urged to be as flexible as possible. Makes all final decisions about interpreting the rules; stays out of the playing area; explains rules as the game proceeds; keeps the game flowing - does not stop play unless quite necessary; demonstrates re-starts; has re-starts taken immediately. Be prepared to restrain, politely but firmly, over enthusiastic parents. Let the children enjoy the game.</p>
The Coach:	<p>To protect the “spirit of the game.”</p> <p>To dress appropriately and smartly.</p> <p>To be on time for games.</p> <p>To plan for the game (substitutions, pre-game interaction with players)</p> <p>To give players equal opportunity and equal time.</p> <p>To know emergency procedures - ambulance, telephone numbers, first aid</p> <p>To welcome other coaches and parents.</p> <p>To be courteous to game leaders.</p> <p>To listen to the players.</p> <p>To organize the appointment of a team manager and help structure those responsibilities.</p> <p>To know the rules of the game and to pass that knowledge on to young players.</p> <p>To hook them on the game.</p> <p>To be capable of working miracles on a regular basis!</p>
The Parent (Guardian or Spectator)	<p>To allow the children to play freely. To be enthusiastic, yet not critical.</p> <p>To be sociable with the opposing team’s parents.</p> <p>To inform coach and/or manager if player cannot attend a game.</p> <p>To be positive by focusing on what children CAN do and not let winning and losing change your attitude.</p>
The Player:	<p>To bring and wear soccer shoes and shinguards; to get to game on time (explain to Mom and Dad).</p>

WHAT CHILDREN CAN EXPECT FROM ADULTS

To make this a special positive experience, adults have a vital role to play. The process of building upon the individual child's experience is vital. The game provides the teaching and the role of the adult is to reinforce the successful discoveries the child makes. Give these children the game, and you will be a fine coach. Be patient, do not expect the impossible from children - they are not small adults.

Children Can Expect Adults To

- Help, encourage and support (coach, players, game leaders, the process);
- Praise effort and performance with positive statements and actions;
- Set good examples - give them clear idea of the behavior expected.
- Emphasize players first and winning second. The result should be your third or fourth question.
- The real winning is PLAYING THE GAME;
- Display patience;
- Allow the children to discover the game; and
- Let him or her be what he or she is -- a child.

Children Can Expect That Adults DO NOT

- Attempt to "coach" or "manipulate" players while at play;
- Use any jargon or dictate tactics;
- Shout, argue, swear, become violent or use sarcasm;
- Ignore children who need help
- Assess players by their incompetence's; or
- Be embarrassed by the adults who are watching them.